## Wright Brothers Welcomed to the Ranks of Gold Medalists



Wilbur Wright. TON-WARLIKE Acts Honored by National Medals on But Twelve Prior Occasions-Voting of a National Medal Places Recipient in Innermost Sanctuary of Our Temple of Fame—Comes Only by Joint Resolution of Congress-Others Honored for Peaceful Attainment.

opyright, 1909, by John Elfreth Watkins.) ONGRESS' voting national medals in their ability, ourage and success in navigating the air," is a signal honor conferred on but a dozen previous oc-

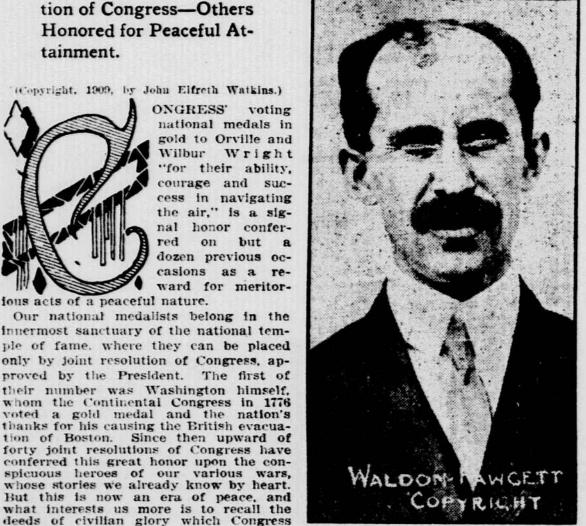
ward for meritorious acts of a peaceful nature. Our national medalists belong in the innermost sanctuary of the national temple of fame, where they can be placed only by joint resolution of Congress, approved by the President. The first of their number was Washington himself, whom the Continental Congress in 1776 voted a gold medal and the nation's thanks for his causing the British evacuation of Boston. Since then upward of forty joint resolutions of Congress have conferred this great honor upon the conspicuous heroes of our various wars. whose stories we already know by heart. But this is now an era of peace, and

The Wrights are the first civilians to also received medals and awards from so heroically saved the life of Secretary large sum of money, amounting to \$2,000. receive this reward in more than twenty various foreign, American and international institutes.

Seward from the assassin Payne. Robinth of the more destitute of the southern and the more destitute of the south years. Of previous recipients of this category the last was Joseph Francis of Boston, inventor of the life car. Congress Two years after this award to Francis until severely wounded in the leg by can-began clerking in a store in Danvers, in March, 1887, passed a joint resolution. in March, 1887, passed a joint resolution Congress had, however, voted a gold having lain in the hospital nearly a year, build up the largest dry goods business thanking him for his "life-long services to medal to a national hero who, although and before his wound had entirely healed, of his generation. Although settling in humanity and to his country" and voting not a civilian, had rendered these re- he was detailed from the hospital to act London as a broker in 1837 he from there

and is said to have cost \$5,000. It is now 150 miles apart, and De Long and all bowie knife. on exhibition in the National Museum. Francis was a remarkable man in many ways, and, like many geniuses, he was a precocious youth. When only eleven he exhibited a fancy boat at a fair, and when only eighteen received from the Massachusetts Mechanics' Institute the first prize for a fast rowboat. This was back in 1819. Then the Secretary of the Navy sent him to the Portsmouth navy yard to build modern lifeboats for our men-of-war, and he fell to inventing lifesaving apparatus of surprising design.

Some of these are said to have been the world's first iron floating vessels. His life car was given to the world as far back as 1838 and one of these was placed on the New Jersey coast, near Long Branch, in 1849. The following year, when the British immigrant ship Ayreshire was wrecked off the beach, Francis' life car was given its first trial and saved 200 of those on board-all save one, who insisted upon riding outside the car while his family were inside.' The government, which thirty-seven years later was to vote the nation's thanks to the then obscure inventor, had taken small stock in the "crank invention" and had allowed Francis to install it only at his own expense. Today this same car is on exhibition in the National Museum as one of the nation's sacred relies. The first four years that Francis had this and other lifeboats in use they saved 2,150 lives. He was seventy-eight years old when the nation gave him his long-merited reward. Thirty-two years before Napoleon III had presented him with a diamond-studded snuffbox of gold, valued at \$2,500 and twenty-seven years before the czar had



has rewarded with national medals in Orville Wright. given him the knighthood of St. Stanis- A gold medal and \$500 was voted in award to Peabody was made

but two of his men perished. Melville Catching the gleam from the knife, now



Admiral Melville.

never gave up until he had found the bodies of De Long and his companions, four months later, returning them to the United States, where they were buried with honors in 1884. When Congress voted him his gold medal for this great exhibition of bravery it also advanced him fifteen numbers.

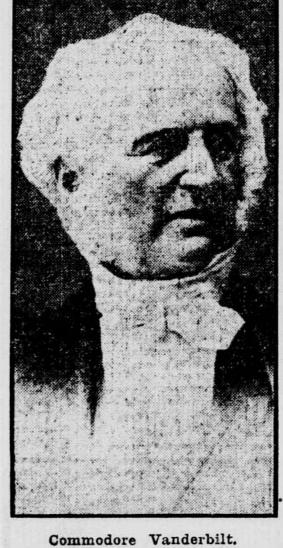
The next civilian, before Francis, to receive such an honor was John Horn, jr. of Detroit, whom in 1874 Congress voted a gold medal in recognition "of his heroic and humane exploits in rescuing men, women and children from drowning in the Detroit river." This man had saved more than 100 people at odd times and often had had to pay for his heroism by remaining bedfast for weeks following exposure to the water filled with ice. During the great conflagration of the Detroit railroad depot in 1866 he rescued nine persons, one after the other, continuing to swim until he collapsed from exhaustion. At another time after a long struggle in the ice to save a woman he had been carried home by four men who had to work over him four hours to restore his blood to circulation. The same day that this medal was awarded to Horn' Congress voted its first general appropriation for life-saving medals, which have since been awarded by the executive without the need of spedfic congressional action. The year previously Congress had voted special medals to Capt. Jared S. Crandall, lighthouse keeper of Westerly, R. I., and his volunteer crew of nine men who pushed out a couple of small boats and saved thirty-two persons from the wreck of the steamer Metis, in Long Island sound, August 31, 1872.

laus, with a medal and diploma. He had 1871 to George F. Robinson, the man who great and peculiar benificence in giving a

passed again, and the medal was pinned of the civil war when he sailed for the o'clock on the night of Lincoln's assassiupon the inventor's breast by the Presi- polar regions with De Long in the Jean- nation and while he was at the bedside of dent in the east room of the White House. nette in 1879. They had been gone from Mr. Seward, Robinson was startled by a This medal was the largest which the San Francisco two years when their ves- disturbance in the hall outside the sickmint has ever stamped for any one save sel was sunk in the ice. When Melville room. He opened it and on the thres-Grant. It was four inches in diameter- and De Long succeeded in reaching land hold found an athletic man brandishing considerably larger than a butter plate- with a portion of the crew they were in one hand a pistol and in the other a

aimed at his own throat, Robinson struck at the assassin and warded off the weapon, although receiving a blow on the head which knocked him to the floor. The assassin then rushed to Seward's bed and striking with the knife at the Secretary's throat already had gashed one cheek to the bone when Robinson, unarmed and despite his wound and long suffering, seized Payne just as the knife was about to bury itself in Mr. Seward's throat. He dragged Payne off the bed, but while doing so received two stab wounds in his own back from which he afterward became partially paralyzed. He, however, held onto Payne and saved Seward's life. Then disregarding the blood which was filling his shoes he kept his finger pressed upon the severed artery of the unconscious Secretary of State until the arrival of the surgeon general. Then having saved Seward's life, he was himself carried off to the hospital, where his own wounds nearly proved fatal. The House report recommending the joint resolution for his medal praised Robins son for displaying " a bravery never surpassed in the annals of any country." Following his recovery he was given a clerkship first in the Treasury, and afterward in the quartermaster general's of-

Two distinguished civilians were voted medals in gold and the thanks of Congress in 1867. These were Cyrus W. Field and George Peabody. Field was thus honored "for his foresight, courage and motion of education in the south was in-

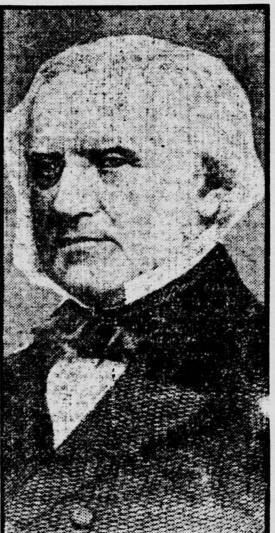


communication by means of the Atlantic cable, traversing midocean and connecting the old world with the new." son, then thirty-three years old, had southwestern states." Peabody, born in fought in the war with a Maine regiment 1795, was the Carnegle of his time. He him's gold medal to be presented by the President. Cleveland withheld his signature from the resolution until too late until recently was engineer-in-chief, en arm and jaw, caused by his having country. The large donation for the pro-



Cyrus W. Field.

determination in establishing telegraphic creased in 1869 to \$3,500,000. He spent millions on other philanthropies here and contributed \$2,500,000 for the building of model lodging houses for the poor of London. In 1867 Queen Victoria offered to make him a peer, but he declined. But she presented him with a portrait of herself which now hangs in the institute at Peabody, Mass. He died a bachelor in 1869 and was the first private citizen of a foreign country to be honored by burial in Westminster Abbey, but to carry out his wishes his relatives had his remains removed to Massachusetts, to lie beside those of his mother. The Monarch, the first frigate of the British navy, carried his body across the Atlantic, where it was received by an American squadron, commanded by Farragut. Gladstone's

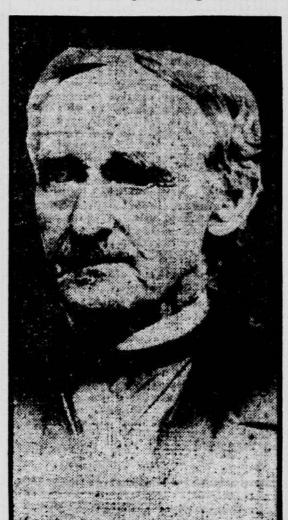


George Peabody.

tribute to him was that he taught the Fortress Monroe, on time, world how a man might be the master of four days.

his fortune and not its slave. and Antartic, voted "valuable gold med- April of that year the fever had broken in rescuing about 500 Americans from at Jamaica, and Dr. Rose, at great perco, in 1853. This ship, carrying the 3d lees on board while she was there, but Artillery, had set out from Fort Wood, sailed in her to New York, devoting hima leak and was disembarking the re- and crew of the United States brig Sommainder of her passengers when over- ers in the harbor of Vera Cruz. taken by a gale in which the plucky sea were the commanders of three English, captains named came to her rescue. Be- two French and one Spanish vessel, which sides their gold medals, these skippers went to the Somers' assistance after her were also voted \$7,500, while each mate capsize, and who both clothed and enwas given \$500 and each man and boy tertained her officers and crew after thus aboard \$100. These awards were not saving their lives. made until the sixtles. Commodore Vanderbilt received the

thanks of Congress and a gold national The year previously gold medals were



Joseph Francis.

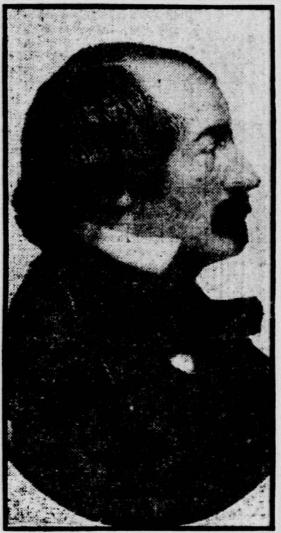
ship Vanderbilt to the government. He had just built this handsome steamship of 5,000 tons to, as he said, demonstrate that individual enterprise could, without the aid of government encouragement, place upon the ocean steamships equal, at least in magnitude, power and speed, to any which had been constructed under government patronage and protection in any part of the world." He spent about \$1,000.000 on her, and she broke the transatlantic record.

In March, 1862, Commodore Vanderbilt received a letter from Stanton asking him if he would undertake to prevent the Confederate steamer Merrimac from escaping out of Norfolk harbor. The commodore answered by telegram that he would come to Washington next day, and arriving here, he had his first meeting with Stanton, who tock him over to the White House to see Lincoln. He offered Lincoln the Vanderbilt, which, he said, if properly manned, would either keep the Merrimac bottled up in Hampton roads or sink her, if she ventured out. Lincoln asked the commodore to name the sum for which he would undertake the serv-

"Nothing will induce me, sir, to become a speculator upon the necessities of my country," said the commodore. "I make a gift of her to the government for the services proposed." And the ship was off

For risking his life to attend vellow Three civilians who received the award fever patients on our man-of-war Susimmediately prior to these were Ship quehanna, Dr. Frederick Henry Rose of Capts. Creighton, Low and Stauffer of the British navy was voted a gold medal the merchant vessels Three Bells, Kilby and the thanks of Congress in 1858. In als" as a reward for "gallant conduct" out on the Susquehanna while she lay the wreck of the steamship San Francis- sonal risk, not only volunteered his serv-N. Y., for California, and had not gone self to the care of the sick en route. Six far when wrecked on Christmas eve by a other foreigners were voted medals in heavy sea, which swept overboard four 1847 for "so gallantly and at imminent officers and 120 men. She then sprung peril of their lives" rescuing the officers

medal in 1862 for presenting his steam- voted also to Dr. Elisha Kent Kane, the arctic explorer, and his brother officers, as a testimonial for their bravery during the Lady Franklin relief expedition for the rescue of Sir John Franklin. Dr. Kane, a surgeon in our navy, had barely escaped with his life from a crater in the Philippines, had practiced medicine in China, had had a thrilling encounter with Bedouin robbers in Egypt, had visited the King of Dahomey and had been in the arctic regions with the Grinnell expedition, all prior to this final triumph. He sailed in search of Franklin in 1853, enlisted Esquimau recruits, made a "farthest north" record, discovered Humboldt glacier, and, after being deserted by a part of his company, and having to abandon his ship, moved his boats and sick sixty miles over the ice and managed to reach Cape York after a thrilling experience of two years. He and his men were received with great enthusiasm on their return, and besides being voted a special arctic medal by Congress, were given the queen's medal by the British government, Each of these national medals has been designed especially for the honored recipient, and they have been works of art in themselves. They have not been stamped from any die already on hand at the mint, but have represented a high degree of the sculptor's art. The joint resolution just passed instructs the Secretary of War to have the Wright brothers' gold medals adorned "with suitable emblems, devices and inscriptions." JOHN ELFRETH WATKINS.



Elisha Kent Kane.

## SECRETARY WILSON MAKING NEW RECORD FOR CONTINUOUS CABINET SERVICE.



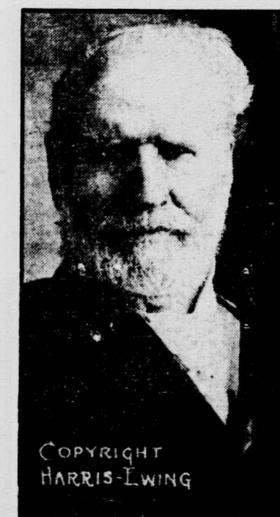
cabinet service. If he serves out

the four years to which President Taft appointed him, the Secretary of Agriculture will have been sixteen years at the elbow nts of the United States. But he doesn't need to stay that long

in the service of his country to establish new marks in American history. If he shall remain in his present place till November 29, 1900, he will stand alone for length of cabinet service. It had been thought that the record was

already his, but historians delving deeply into the archives have found out that Albert Gallatin of Pennsylvania still holds the advantage.

Like Secretary Wilson, who was born in Scotland. Gailatin did not see the light of day for the first time in the country he was destined to serve so well. He was born in Geneva, came to the new world, assisted the colonies in achieving their independence, became a factor in states-



Secretary James Wilson.

manship and an expert in finance, and when Thomas Jefferson ascended to the from a money standpoint, for the finan-



Albert Gallatin. Secretary of the Treasury for more than twelve

latin held the place twelve years, eight months, twenty-five days. For almost a century the record has stood, and students of statecraft had come to doubt that it would ever be equaled while rapacity for public careers and the whirling changes of political life worked such swift shifts in places of power and influence. But now comes Secretary Wilson, who

has put the Department of Agriculture on such a high plane of efficiency that three Presidents of the United States have honored him with the portfolio, two of them tendering it to him twice. William McKin'ey first picked James Wilson for the place of power, and when he took office, March 4, 1807, Wilson also began serving the interests of the farming constituency. When McKinley was re-elected he was quick to see the value of the work Wilson had done, and once more he gave the portfolio to the Iowa

The bullet of the assassin took the loved President from his high place, and brought Theodore Roesevelt into the enter office in the gift of the people.

place of President, in 1801, Gallatin was According to custom all cabinet officers curred." his choice for Secretary of the Treasury. tendered their resignations. Roosevelt The period was one of vital importance persuaded them all to stay for the time

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Agriculture. In 1904 Roosevelt had the running order. Now William H. Taft has one that will long be quoted.

King Edward's Coronation Cost Sum of \$1,796,445

Special Correspondence of The Star. LONDON, March 15, 1909. XPENDITURE accounts for King George IV's coronation included a dinner

these estimates stated that the coronation would cost only \$725,000, whereas that figure was exceeded by just \$1.071,-000. Of course, a million dollars here or there, when extracted from the British taxpayer, makes no especial difference-at least, not to the noblity and the court officials who immediately surround the king. At the same time, it is a singular phenomenon that no rumpus is made, and not a single word about "graft" is heard when estimated expenses for the elaborate ceremony should exceed thir original allowance by such a huge sum, and especially when these accounts have been held back from public consideration for The British treasury, in accepting the late Russell Sturgis," said a least accounts, remarks—more in sorrow

1. New York architect, "continually more than six years.

final accounts, remarks-more in sorrow coronation as required special provision lieving themselves young. planation that the sum so provided repre- he had heard in a barber shop. sented only a portion of the cost to be in-

This is a mild English way of consuring his head, snapped at the young barber, on the school from their fifteenth to their system, but he put it on a scale of protection of a hair cut.

Whom, democrats and republicans alike, system, but he put it on a scale of protection of a hair cut. the court officials for exceeding their esti- the completion of a hair cut. mate to the extent of a million, but the "You are not the thorough workman out are equipped with sufficient knowledge ficiency never dreamed of by its German by not less than the time permitted if clal systems of the country were just be-\* ing shaped, and when Gallatin succeeded changes he wanted to make and gradual- hear no more about it, saving, perhaps, in take a good half hour to cut my hair." or cabinet-making trades

the last lap of his record - breaking record - breaking record - breaking cabinet service.

began to change; but when the new staff people. This gave him still greater latities to get the new staff people. This gave him still greater latities the record reappointed in the right place, for he has always more productive than by any other known began to change; but when the new staff people. This gave him still greater latities and continues the veteran cabinet service in the right place, for he has always more productive than by any other known to the staff people. This gave him still greater latities and continues the veteran cabinet service in the right place, for he has always more productive than by any other known to the staff people. This gave him still greater latities and continues the veteran cabinet service in the right place, for he has always more productive than by any other known to the staff people. This gave him still greater latities and continues the veteran cabinet service in the right place, for he has always more arranged in the right place, for he has always more arranged in the right place, for he has always more productive than by any other known to the staff people. This gave him still greater latities and the officer in the place he has so well been a farmer. Beginning as a little lad means of fertilization. He tried to get was more arranged it was significant tude in picking out his advisers, but it has a still greater latities and the staff people. This gave him still greater latities and the record in the right place, for he has always more arranged in the right place, for he has a little lad means of fertilization. He tried to get was not successful and the first place in the right place, for he has a little lad means of fertilization. He tried to get was not successful and the first place, for he has a little lad means of fertilization. He tried to get was not successful and the first place, and the right place, for he has a little lad means of fertilization. He tried to get was not

some of the "radical" and socialist news-papers, which, however, do not express Queen Alexandra Starts the opinion of the average Englishman.

in expense that of any other court func-

tion of its kind on record. For instance,

Edward's coronation have only that cost \$125,942 and \$555,500 for furnijust been made public and, con- ture and decorations for Westminster sidering the enormous figures in- Hall, while, on robes alone, that monarch volved, it is rather significant that these accounts have taken six years to audit.

Hall, while, on robes alone, that monarch dringham. Followingher project whiskers and quiet, forceful manner, spent \$125,000. "Snuff boxes for foreign of operating a farm dairy for the benefit to audit.

Two good men had preceded Wilson ministers"—a curious item of royal expenditure—came alone to more than \$41,—opened a school of needlework for girls ture, for it is a newly established arm improved with profit to Uncle Sam's son opened a school of needlework for girls ture, for it is a newly established arm opened a school of the soil. Monarchs of the past have often been penditure—came alone to more than \$41,- opened a school of needlework for girls ture, for it is a newly established arm improved with profit to Uncle Sam's son lescribed as being groundthrifts when it described as being spendthrifts when it came to lavish squandering on their coronation, but it is quite evident that King of King Edward's. It is said with more

opened a school of needlework for girls thre, for it is a newly established with for girls thre, for it is a newly established with profit to chice Sain's soil
and one of carpentry for boys. The of the government service, being now of the soil.

Secretary Wilson has punished evil doqueen's model dairy has long been a less than a generation old. Jerry Rusk ing in his department with stern hand.

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Secretary Wilson has punished evil doqueen's model dairy has long been a less than a generation old. Jerry Rusk
ing in his department with stern hand. Edward is a record breaker in this re- or less accuracy that the king made it a addition to making a profit from the farm, to shaping the earlier policies, but it respect. His coronation cost England the "tidy" sum of \$1,796,445—quite a considering that Edward siderable figure considering that Edward to a local siderable figure considering that the find is regarded as one of the most democratic from London to Windsor to save money, there are applications always on hand methods to farming could produce beneand though the royal family was costing for the queen's own dairymaids. the English people the huge sum of near-ty \$3,000,000 per annum, Queen Victoria with success from the paying point of of age, but he does not look it. He is spent practically nothing. It was mainly view, and the girls turned out from her more than six feet tall, is powerfully to offset this unfavorable opinion that needlework school are finding excellent built, has a pair of keen gray eyes that the enormous figures involved has not king Edward decided to "plunge." It positions among the nobility in many follow closely every word of every narcreated even a flutter of excitement in official or other circles in England. The more restored the court to London. With into business for themselves and are finding excellent positions among the nobility in many follow closely every word of every narparts of the country. Several have gone that the court to London. With into business for themselves and are finding excellent positions among the nobility in many follow closely every word of every narparts of the country. Several have gone that have gone the restored the court to London, of holding their own even against the first part of the country. Several have gone the country at his desk in the dethe restored the court to London, of holding their own even against the first part of the country. It is a pair of keen glay cycle that the positions among the nobility in many follow closely every word of every narparts of the country. Several have gone the country that have been raised is one course the London tradesmen, court dress- competition in this line in London. of technicality. The committee who had makers and hosts of others receive the to "pass." or audit the vouchers for the benefit of royal patronage, whereas with located in a pretty little cottage, built tints, but his immaculate linen, set off coronation have pointedly drawn atten- the king living out of town-especially in in the Gothic style, and scarcely a with a dark tie, suggests the man who tion to the fact that the accounts, as a little place like Windsor—the funds are stone's throw from the queen's own rooms is as unfailing regular in his habits of more or less hoarded up. finally submitted, were not in keeping It is a singular fact that King Edward with the original estimates. No ques- has curried popular favor by spending and very often spends her mornings tion of propriety is raised whatever con- liberally since coming to the throne. The main unpopularity of his mother-at least, cerning the spending of more than \$1.70).- among the trades people—was due to the 000 on the court function. The committee fact that she held on to her "allowance," only feels slightly hurt that these ex- and the people derived little benefit from penses made the original estimates pre- the money they bestowed upon her. It sented to parliament look sick. In fact is mainly for the opposite reason that there is no severe criticism passed on the

king's coronation expenses. Even if they doubled the sum named-\$1,796,445-the English people would feel that they got layettes, cutting out and so forth. their money's worth in the fact that the king spent a large portion of this money among the decorators, chefs, caterers, of Norwegian tapestry, in which the queen florists, court dressmakers and other royal herself takes a deep interest. Her house knew the practical side, but who also herself takes a deep interest. Her house by reason of his life as a pedagogue ple, these English," Carlyle remarked long ago, and the saying holds good to honiton lace.

## Less to Do.

than in anger-"My lords (that is the marveled at the swift passage of time, bent. There are no time tables, no Of the many services that this aplords of the treasury) take note of the This great architect and critic continually schemes of instruction and no display of pointee of President McKinley has rencommittee's opinion, in which they con- found new examples of the swift way methods. part of the expenses connected with the men grow old and ugly while still be-

"An old chap, with hardly a hair on

School for Children King Edward's coronation has excelled Special Correspondence of The Star.

The queen's school for needlework is confining himself to the garb of sober in the royal residence. Her majesty takes dress as in everything else that concerns a keen personal interest in this school him.

among the girls, watching them at work. The curriculum embraced at the queen's needlework classes is a very thorough one. The students begin with plain needle- service record, has figured in public life work and then take up in their order before he came into his present office. embroidery, dressmaking, fine needlework, He spent three terms in Congress and drawn-threadwork and crochet trimming. gained a knowledge of official routine; The course covers everything that has to do with a woman's dresses, including then he went back to Iowa to become a underclothing, the making of trousseaux, professor in Iowa Agricultural College.

in Denmark is full of specimens of work by reason of his life as a pedagogue turned out by her scholars. The girls was familiar with the scientific phases are also taught the spinning and weaving of farming, and who also having served of cloths and the making of torchon and the nation in Washington, understood One of the best features of the queen's

structress tries to find out what each entirely on fitness, and its fitness has girl's individual tastes are and to develop more than been vindicated by the events her in conformity with her own artistic of the last twelve years.

school is the boys' Technical School of mentioned first and most gratefully is Woodwork. The number of pupils in this that relating to the inoculation of the should have been accompanied by an ex- "He repeated to me one day a remark school is limited-only six being taken- soil with the so-called benign bacteria. and, as a consequence, there is keen competition among the tenants on the

with farming that he did not know.

"I am a hayseed," he delights to say, amount. LONDON, March 15, 1909. but none can argue that he looks like it. UEEN ALEXANDRA has re- As a matter of fact, in appearance he of the west of a species of wheat that cently taken a deep personal would better fit in the Navy Depart- making profitable land of wastes that interest in the welfare of the ment, for he looks for all the world like yielded little because of the minimum people on her estate at San- some bluff old admiral, with his white rainfall. Irrigation has been introduced dringham. Following her project whiskers and quiet, forceful manner. by the wholesale, and in all lines of farming the methods of the whole world have

fit to the tiller of the soil.

tates of fashion in the matter of dress,

The Secretary, on his way to the long Then it was that the peculiarly approlawmaking and administrative work. "He was made for the place," school is that there is no regular hard- the President. No politicians had a and-fast system followed. The head in hand in this appointment. It was based

About half a mile away from the girls' the last twelve years one that is usually

that by the introduction into the soil of President Taft.

ECRETARY WIL- in putting currency on a sound basis Jef- ly the complexion of the list of advisers honor of being chosen to the post by the indorsed the judgment of his two predeSON has started in ferson reappointed him.

SON has started in ferson reappointed him.

Began to change; but when the new staff people. This gave him still greater laticessors, and continues the veteran cabi- in the right place, for he has always more productive than by any other known began to change; but when the new staff people. This gave him still greater laticut farm and finally in mature manhood until Secretary Wilson turned his bureau to the broad acres of Iowa, he has al- of plant industry to work. First the ways lived close to the soil, and when bacteria were produced by cultivation. he came into authority over one of the Experiments developed that the bacteria most complicated departments at Wash- could be distributed through the mail on ington there was nothing that had to do a piece of cotton. Wholesale to tarmers all over the country the valuable material was sent out, and reports agree that it has done the greatest good. Secretary Wilson is constantly extending the

The introduction into the arid lands



On the Way to the White House.

it produce the most good for the greatestate for admission. The boys remain in Secretary Wilson did not invent this est number of his constituents, most of